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Children's Residential Care Update

OCTOBER 2009

This is our third quarter *Children's Residential Care Update* for 2009. We are in the seventeenth year of our efforts to keep the children's residential care community informed of licensing programs and services. Your support in sharing this *Update* with colleagues in your organization and others interested in children's issues is appreciated.

Our *Updates* are available online at the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) Community Care Licensing Division (CCLD) website. They can be viewed or obtained at <http://cclcd.ca.gov/PG457.htm>.



H1N1 (SWINE) AND SEASONAL INFLUENZA

As we enter the fall flu season, there is much publicity about the need to prepare for both the H1N1 (Swine) and regular (seasonal) influenza. To assist licensees and providers, we have prepared a handout, [Tips for Licensees on H1N1 \(Swine\) and Seasonal Influenza](#). It contains prevention tips, precautions for facility staff when caring for an ill client or resident, and steps to take if an outbreak is suspected. You can also access this document at CCLD's website at www.cclcd.ca.gov.

According to the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), vaccination is the most important prevention measure. CDPH recommends that all clients, residents and facility staff be vaccinated against the seasonal flu as soon as possible. However, the seasonal flu vaccine is not expected to protect against the H1N1 flu, or vice versa. Please continue to watch for updates about H1N1 flu vaccinations. Find a flu clinic near you at www.flucliniclocator.org, and visit www.flu.gov/ for more information.

At this time, the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) doesn't expect a shortage of the H1N1 flu vaccine, but initially the vaccine may be available in limited quantities. CDC has identified certain priority groups for receiving the H1N1 vaccine, including pregnant women; healthcare and emergency medical services

personnel; household contacts and caregivers for children younger than six months of age; all people from six months through 24 years of age; and persons aged 25 through 64 years who have health conditions associated with a higher risk of medical complications from influenza. In addition, CDC has identified certain groups of people as being at higher risk for severe illness from both the H1N1 and seasonal flu, including persons aged 65 years or older and residents of nursing homes and other chronic-care facilities.

To help reinforce good hand hygiene and respiratory hygiene/cough etiquette, licensees are encouraged to post signs such as CDC's popular Cover Your Cough poster. Copies of this poster in English and Spanish can be downloaded directly at <http://www.dhss.mo.gov/PandemicInfluenza/CoverYourCoughPoster.pdf>. Other resources—as well as copies of Cover Your Cough in other languages—are available at <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/flyers.htm>.

Licensees are also reminded to report any suspected outbreak to the [local health department](#) and the local licensing office. More information on the H1N1 flu can be found at CDC's website at http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/guidance_homecare.htm, and at CDPH's website at www.cdph.ca.gov/HealthInfo/discond/Pages/SwineInfluenza.aspx. If you have questions, you may contact the CDPH H1N1 flu hotline at 1-888-865-0564 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, or your [local health department](#).

HELP FOR YOUTH EMANCIPATING FROM CARE



Food Stamp Benefits: CDSS recently released an All County Letter (ACL), dated June 16, 2009, to notify counties of a new process for receiving and processing a Food Stamp Program (FSP) application for a youth whose foster care eligibility is ending as a result of the termination of his or her dependency. This new process is intended to provide a foster youth emancipating from care with a better opportunity to participate in the FSP, and includes the following steps:

- A foster youth will receive a FSP application from his or her county when he or she attends an interview with his or her county to prepare for emancipation from care.
- He or she will be asked to provide information on the application regarding his or her expected circumstances when dependency is terminated.
- The county will forward a youth's FSP application to the appropriate county FSP office when it is completed. The FSP office will hold an application for up to 30 days from the date it is received in the office.
- When a youth's dependency is terminated, the social worker or other foster care staff designated by his or her county will notify the FSP office so that his or her application can be processed.

- The FSP office will evaluate the application for expedited service, and approve or deny the application based on FSP eligibility criteria.

If a youth's emancipation from care is denied or delayed by the court and the application cannot be processed in 30 days, the application must be denied and an appropriate notice of action must be issued. When this happens, a youth's county worker should look for an opportunity to have him or her complete another application.

The ACL, which includes a full description of the process, a list of Independent Living Program County Coordinators, and a list of FSP Specialists, is available at <http://www.dss.cahwnet.gov/lettersnotices/entres/getinfo/acl/2009/09-25.pdf>.



Transitional Housing Options: CDSS just released an All County Information Notice (ACIN), dated August 10, 2009, to present questions and answers on Transitional Housing Placement Program (THPP), licensed by CCLD, and Transitional Housing Placement Program Plus (THP-Plus), certified by counties. These questions and answers are intended to enhance the awareness of foster youth emancipating from care regarding housing options and include information on:

- Eligibility for youth in various situations,
- Conduct while in the program, and
- Requirements for living with a Host Family.

The ACIN, which includes Transitional Housing Questions and Answers, is available at http://www.dss.cahwnet.gov/lettersnotices/entres/getinfo/acin/2009/I-40_09.pdf.

INCREASE IN LICENSING FEES

As part of the budget compromise, the licensing application fee, the annual licensing fee, and the Foster Family Agencies' fee for certified homes were all raised by 10 percent. Specifically, Assembly Bill X4 4 (AB 4, Evans, Chapter 4, Statutes of 2009) amended Health and Safety Code section 1523.1, to increase licensing fees by 10 percent. This increase in fees became effective July 28, 2009. Licensees will receive supplemental bills if they had annual fees due in August and September. Those supplemental bills will be mailed in October. The new fee schedule can be found on the Internet at <http://cclld.ca.gov/res/pdf/Fees.pdf>.

NEW SSI/SSP PAYMENT STANDARDS EFFECTIVE NOVEMBER 1, 2009

On July 28, 2009, the Governor signed into law Assembly Bill X4 4 (AB 4, Evans, Chapter 4, Statutes of 2009). The new Supplemental Security Income (SSI)/State Supplementary Payment (SSP) rates will become effective November 1, 2009. Under this new law, the SSI/SSP payment standards were reduced for those residing in their own household under the "Independent Living" and "Couple" categories. However, the rates for the Non-Medical Out-of-Home Care (NMOHC) living arrangements are exempt from any reduction and remain unchanged from those rates in effect on

January 1, 2009. The SSI/SSP Payment Chart effective November 1, 2009 can be found on the Internet at <http://cclid.ca.gov/res/pdf/09apx10.pdf>. The SSI/SSP NMOHC Payment Standard effective November 1, 2009 can be found at <http://cclid.ca.gov/res/pdf/09apx11.pdf>.

If you have any questions, please contact Teri Harness of the Adult Programs Division at (916) 229-4552.

REGULATIONS DOCKET

Foster Family Homes (FFH): The Public Hearing for the proposed FFH regulations was held June 17, 2009. The Department is now responding to public testimony.

These regulations would implement several pieces of legislation that include: Assembly Bill (AB) 408 (Chapter 813, Statutes of 2003), which entitled foster children to participate in age-appropriate extracurricular, enrichment, and social activities; AB 1116 (Chapter 637, Statutes of 2005) which authorized designated, trained caregivers who are not licensed health care providers to administer emergency medical assistance and/or injections for specific reasons to a foster child in placement; AB 1514 (Chapter 120, Statutes of 2007), which specified that psychotropic medication may be administered to a child who is a ward of the court with a court order; Senate Bill (SB) 358 (Chapter 628, Statutes of 2005) which established the Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard and exempted short-term babysitters from regulatory requirements for criminal background check, health screening, and CPR training; and SB 500 (Chapter 630, Statutes of 2005), which defined a "Whole Family Foster Home" and required a "Shared Responsibility Plan" for a minor parent and caregiver with regard to the minor parent's child.

Smoking in Vehicles and Children's Residential Facilities: The Status Conference on these proposed regulations was held May 27, 2009. The Public Hearing was held August 12, 2009.

These proposed regulations will implement SB 7 (Chapter 425, Statutes of 2007), which made it unlawful to smoke a pipe, cigar or cigarette containing tobacco or any other plant material in a motor vehicle whether the vehicle is in motion or at rest when there is a minor present.

Public hearing information for the Smoking regulations is posted on the ORD website under "Regulation Changes in Process/Completed Regulations", in "Public Hearing Information" at <http://www.dss.cahwnet.gov/ord/ORD%20No.%200409-04.htm>.

FOSTER FAMILY AGENCY (FFA) WEB APPLICATION QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

FFAs using the Web Application for Criminal Record Clearance functions, certification and decertification of Certified Family Homes and annual billing can now refer to a [Question and Answer document](#) for assistance. This document is included in this *Update* and will be available on the web in the future. The FFA Web Application itself and a User's Guide are available at <https://secure.dss.cahwnet.gov/cclid/securenet/ffa/login.aspx>.



GUIDELINES FOR PROPER DISPOSAL OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

The federal Office of National Drug Control Policy has issued new 2009 guidelines on the proper disposal of prescription drugs, which includes such drugs used as medication for a child in care. These guidelines include:

- Not flushing prescription drugs down the toilet or drain unless the label or patient information specifically instructs you to do so.
- Bringing prescription drugs to a community drug take-back program or household hazardous waste collection at a central location for proper disposal. You are advised to call your city or county government's household trash and recycling service to ask if a drug take-back program is available in your community.
- Taking proper steps to contain and dispose of prescription drugs when no community drug take-back program is available.

The guidelines are a full list of proper steps for disposal of prescription drugs and are available at http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/publications/pdf/prescrip_disposal.pdf.

CALIFORNIA FIRMS RECALL GROUND BEEF PRODUCTS DUE TO POSSIBLE *E. COLI* O157:H7 OR SALMONELLA CONTAMINATION

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) recently announced that certain brands of ground beef have been subject to recall as a result of possible contamination with *E.coli* O157:H7 or salmonella.

- Sterling Pacific Meat Co., in City of Commerce, California, is recalling approximately 3,516 pounds of ground beef product that may be contaminated with *E. coli* O157:H7. This recall affects Fatburger Brand and Cattleman's Choice Brand ground beef patties produced on May 18, 2009. The packages subject to recall bear the establishment number "EST. 550" in the USDA Mark of Inspection. Additional FSIS information regarding this recall is available at http://www.fsis.usda.gov/News_&_Events/Recall_042_2009_Release/index.asp
- Beef Packers, Inc., in Fresno, California, is recalling approximately 825,769 pounds of ground beef product that may be contaminated with *Salmonella* Newport. This recall affects various ground beef products produced on June 5, 2009 through June 23, 2009. The packages subject to recall bear the establishment number "EST. 31913" printed on the case code labels. Additional FSIS information regarding this recall is available at http://www.fsis.usda.gov/News_&_Events/Recall_041_2009_Release/index.asp.

Food safety is important when in restaurants and at home. If you have food safety questions, you can "Ask Karen," the FSIS virtual representative available 24 hours a day at AskKaren.gov. The toll-free USDA Meat and Poultry Hotline, 1-888-MPHotline

(1-888-674-6854), is available in English and Spanish from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Eastern Time Monday through Friday. Recorded food safety messages are available 24 hours a day.

RESIDENTIAL CARE STATISTICS

All of the statistics for state and county licensed Children's Residential Care facilities are available online. When you visit the new CCLD home page at <http://www.cclld.ca.gov>, please click on the "Facility Facts" tab at the top of the page. Click on the "Licensing Statistics" link on the center of the page that appears. Then, click on the desired "State Licensed Facilities by Geographical Area" or "County Licensed Facilities" link on the center of the page. Directories can also be obtained from your local licensing office.

SUMMARY

If you have questions about this *Update* or proposed regulations, or suggestions for future topics, please contact Gary Palmer, Chief of the Technical Assistance and Policy Branch at (916) 324-4312. Please visit our website at www.cclld.ca.gov to obtain *Updates*, office locations, provider letters, regulations, or to learn more about licensing services. Information about all Children's Residential facilities and homes, including Out-of-State Group Homes and the Statewide County Foster Family Home Program, is available on the CCLD website at: <http://ccl.dss.cahwnet.gov/PG499.htm>.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By Jeffrey Hiratsuka

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